AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of operating a computer system, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a system action;

initiating a timer;

generating an authorization request for the system action;

evaluating a result of the authorization request for the system action if received before an expiration of the timer; and

granting the request for the system action if the expiration of the timer occurs before the result of the authorization request for the system action is received.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request for the system action comprises receiving [[an]] a remote management and control protocol (RMCP) request for the system action.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein receiving the RMCP request for the system action comprises receiving one of a system reset, a system boot, or a system reboot.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein initiating the timer comprises initiating a watchdog timer.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the authorization request for the system action comprises generating an SMI request.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein generating the SMI request comprises requesting the authorization request for the system action inside SMM.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, initiating the timer comprises initializing the timer for approximately two seconds, wherein the expiration of the timer comprises the approximately two seconds.

8. (Original) A method of operating a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a system action;

initiating a timer;

generating an authorization request for the system action;

evaluating a result of the authorization request for the system action if received before an expiration of the timer; and

granting the request for the system action if the expiration of the timer occurs before the result of the authorization request for the system action is received.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of receiving the request for the system action comprises the step of receiving [[an]] a remote management and control protocol (RMCP) request for the system action.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of receiving the RMCP request for the system action comprises the step of receiving one of a system reset, a system boot, or a system reboot.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of initiating the timer comprises the step of initiating a watchdog timer.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of generating the authorization request for the system action comprises the step of generating an SMI request.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of generating the SMI request comprises the step of requesting the authorization request for the system action inside SMM.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of initiating the timer comprises the step of initializing the timer for approximately two seconds, wherein the expiration of the timer comprises the approximately two seconds.

15. (Original) A computer readable medium encoded with instructions that, when executed by a computer system, performs a method for operating the computer system, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a system action;

initiating a timer;

generating an authorization request for the system action;

evaluating a result of the authorization request for the system action if received before an expiration of the timer; and

granting the request for the system action if the expiration of the timer occurs before the result of the authorization request for the system action is received.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein receiving the request for the system action comprises receiving [[an]] a remote management and control protocol (RMCP) request for the system action.

17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein receiving the RMCP request for the system action comprises receiving one of a system reset, a system boot, or a system reboot.

18. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein initiating the timer comprises initiating a watchdog timer.

19. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein generating the authorization request for the system action comprises generating an SMI request.

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein generating the SMI request comprises requesting the authorization request for the system action inside SMM.

21. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein initiating the timer comprises initializing the timer for approximately two seconds, wherein the expiration of the timer comprises the approximately two seconds.

22. (Original) A computer system, comprising:

a timer;

an SMI request register; and

a processor coupled to the timer and coupled to the SMI request register, wherein the processor is configured to receive an authorization request for a system action, wherein the processor is further configured to initialize the timer in response to receiving the authorization request for the system action.

23. (Original) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the processor is further configured to provide an authorization entry to the SMI request register in response to receiving the authorization request for the system action.

24. (Original) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the timer, the SMI request register, and the processor are comprised on an integrated circuit.

25. (Original) The computer system of claim 22, further comprising:

an Ethernet controller.

26. (Original) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the Ethernet controller is configured to receive a request for the system action.

27. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the system action is [[an]] a remote management and control protocol (RMCP) request.

28. (Original) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the processor is further configured to receive a request for the system action.

29. (Original) The computer system of claim 22, further comprising:

a memory.

30. (Original) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the SMI request register is configured to initialize system management mode (SMM), wherein the memory is configured to store SMM code in response to the SMI request register initializing SMM.

31. (Original) A computer system, comprising:

a timing means;

an SMI request means; and

a processing means coupled to the timing means and coupled to the SMI request means, wherein the processing means is configured to receive an authorization request for a system action, wherein the processing means is further configured to initialize the timing means in response to receiving the authorization request for the system action.

32. (Original) The computer system of claim 31, wherein the processing means is further configured to provide an authorization entry to the SMI request means in response to receiving the authorization request for the system action.

33. (Original) The computer system of claim 31, wherein the timing means, the SMI request means, and the processing means are comprised on an integrated circuit.

34. (Original) The computer system of claim 31, further comprising:
an Ethernet means.

35. (Original) The computer system of claim 34, wherein the Ethernet means is configured to receive a request for the system action.

36. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 34, wherein the system action is [[an]] a remote management and control protocol (RMCP) request.

37. (Original) The computer system of claim 31, wherein the processing means is further configured to receive a request for the system action.

38. (Original) The computer system of claim 31, further comprising:
a storage means.

39. (Original) The computer system of claim 38, wherein the SMI request means is configured to initialize system management mode (SMM), wherein the storage means is configured to store SMM code in response to the SMI request means initializing SMM.

40. (Original) A computer system, comprising:

means for receiving a request for a system action;

means for initiating a timer;

means for generating an authorization request for the system action;

means for evaluating a result of the authorization request for the system action if received before an expiration of the timer; and

means for granting the request for the system action if the expiration of the timer occurs before the result of the authorization request for the system action is received.

41. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 40, wherein the means for receiving the request for the system action comprises means for receiving [[an]] a remote management and control protocol (RMCP) request for the system action.

42. (Original) The computer system of claim 41, wherein the means for receiving the RMCP request for the system action comprises means for receiving one of a system reset, a system boot, or a system reboot.

43. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, wherein the means for initiating the timer comprises means for initiating a watchdog timer.

44. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, wherein the means for generating the authorization request for the system action comprises means for generating an SMI request.

45. (Original) The computer system of claim 44, wherein means for generating the SMI request comprises means for requesting the authorization request for the system action inside SMM.

46. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, the means for initiating the timer comprises means for initializing the timer for approximately two seconds, wherein the expiration of the timer comprises the approximately two seconds.

47. (Withdrawn) A method of operating a computer system, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a system action;

initiating a timer;

generating an authorization request for the system action;

evaluating a result of the authorization request for the system action if received before an expiration of the timer; and

refusing the request for the system action if the expiration of the timer occurs before the result of the authorization request for the system action is received.